



Homeland Security Working Group

May 2003

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's Homeland Security Working Group ensures that the National Spatial Data Infrastructure supports the *preparation for, prevention of, protection against, response to, and recovery from* (1) threats to the nation's population centers and critical infrastructure that are of terrorist, criminal, accidental, or natural origin and (2) related adverse events.

The working group has regular participation from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, the Interior, and Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Communications Commission; and the National States Geographic Information Council.

Major activities

Map symbology: Use of different map symbols for the same information slows and degrades communication, especially when many organizations need to work together. The working group is compiling a set of standard map symbols to support homeland security applications. Initial efforts concentrate on emergency response.

Information content: Early identification of "common" minimum information content that supports homeland security activities, especially for critical infrastructure, will encourage convergence and enable sharing among those charged with developing data. The working group is gathering information needs identified by "communities of

interest". It will identify existing standards that meet these needs and draft standards for needs not met by existing standards.

Policy support:

- The white paper "Homeland Security and Geographic Information Systems", available on the group's web site, describes how geographic information system and mapping technologies can help save lives and protect property.
- Review concerns about the relationship between publicly available geospatial data and the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and population centers, and of the manner in which changes in geospatial data dissemination practices stemming from these concerns are made.

For more information

Visit the working group's web site at <http://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc/homeland/index.html>, or contact

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